Leicester Feb. 23. 1853 -

Rev. Mr. May

Dr. Sir. I have just received your note, of last eve, asking "if it will be convenient & agreeable to our Society, Dr. Nelson, & myself, to have the Rev. Mr. Foss occupy our pulpit a part of the first Sab. in March, to speak on ~~the~~ subject of Am. Slavery" -

I am sorry to say in reply, that it will be unusually *inconvenient* on that day, as it is the regular Sabbath of our Communion, & Monthly Concert; which latter we are particularly desirous of holding at its proper time, as it failed the present Month, on account of the weather -

I must also say that I do not think it would be *agreeable* to the Society, or Dr. Nelson, to grant the request - As for myself, I am always glad to hear the means of removing what I have always considered one of the greatest sins & evils which afflict humanity, discussed in a Christian Spirit & temper; as is done for instance by Mrs. Stowe. But it is certainly *not* *agreeable* to me to hear those things denounced & ridiculed which, (owing perhaps to my weakness & superstition,) I am compelled to regard as most sacred- In the so-called Anti Slavery addresses which it has been my lot to hear of late years (and they have not been few,) I am sorry to say that I have heard comparatively very little of the wrongs of the slave, & the means of their removal; but very much of the bitterest invectives & denunciations against those who were compelled to differ from the speakers, respecting that, or any other subject. For the sake of the cause which he advocates, I most sincerely hope that such is not the course pursued by the Rev. Mr. Foss-

I must also add, that by a vote of our Parish, the church is permitted to be used for no purpose aside from the regular religious meetings, without the special consent of the Parish Committee; to whom therefore in all such cases application must be made-

Earnestly desiring the speedy removal of that great evil we both so much deprecate,

I am very respectfully & truly yrs.

A. C. Denison.

Uncle Tom.

Vol. 1. 58
" 139
163
181 "Cursed be Canaan"
189
191 Refce to Joel Parker
218 'Religion'!
257 Colonization
262 'Dead Sea'
263. The Sermon
265. "Religion!!"
266. Change in the market

I beg you not to thro
yourself in the way of t
Cause. They who do n
be ground to powder.

Mr. Coe called this after noon to day he rec. your letter last eve. while at Mr. Bisco's read it & showed it to him - he said it was a case that must be referred to the Committee - & he went out to see them - the Dr. - Capts Knight & Gleason. the former willing the *latter* of course unwilling. He for himself would be glad to give up the whole day & listen to him & hoped you would have an evening *service* for that he might. The same old story over again.

Brisco told him of the feebleness of the toe - the harm these things did to them &c

I told him I thought it was a pity they didn't die & done with it - they had hardly life enough to call themselves alive.

The box wont go in to basket.

A request was made to you - and you, by the majority of your Committee, refused it.

I am sorry for it - I lament it. But I cannot blame myself in the matter, For while I was with you, I tried by precept & example, to wean you from this prejudice, this illiberality, & this fear of mans

Course as illiberal, narrow, and time-serving as ~~any~~ that of the Orthodox Socy, from which you came out. - Now you are imitating them - you are following their blind & hard-hearted example; and I am puzzled to see wherein you are better than they or occupy any higher a position.

I do not pledge myself never to come here again.

But While this spirit & policy prevail among you, I cease to be of your society, - I come out of your so-called relig. assocn. - I will not be, or seem to be, a partaker in your course. -

I am, in fact, driven away by this proscription. Where the sufferings of the man who, in this country, has fallen among thieves, & by them has been left halfdead, cannot be remembered, or mercy & pity for him urged, there I cannot feel that I am permitted to come. I cannot believe any bl. can be had from such as refuse to pray for the Slave. - I by the wayside, a place of worship, & a church, elsewhere; in the open air, or any place where the Spirit of the Lord is - for there is liberty.

[Copy.]

Rev. Mr. Denison, Dear Sir, The Rev. Andrew T. Foss (of Manchester N.H.) who is now acting as an Agent of the Anti Slavery Society of this County, writes to me that it is his purpose to be in Leicester on Sunday March 6, and that he is desirous to speak, on the subject of American Slavery, on that day, to all who will permit him to do so. He aims — & sometimes successfully — to speak to the regular Societies on that day. Will it be convenient & agreeable to you, and your Society, and to Dr. Nelson, that he should occupy your pulpit half of that day, or at a third service? I have but a slight personal acquaintance with Mr. Foss. But I know, on reliable information, that he is of the Baptist persuasion, & has been a Baptist minister in good standing for 20 years, or so, — and till recently Pastor of a Bapt. Church in N.H. — More recently he was Agent of the Free Mission Bapt. Socy, if I have the name correctly. — He is understood to be of high Moral character; and, to my knowledge, has had no charge ever brought against him touching his ministerial or personal character; though his Anti Slavery opinions have rendered him unpopular with many in his denomination, — not a new thing, I suspect, in any denomination. — I have once heard him speak, & then with ability & good sense. I am anxious that he should have a candid hearing, & the best possible hearing, in this town. If you should comply with the request, which, for the truth's sake, and I may say for the Gospel's sake, I have made of you, will you please also name the part of the day, when you prefer to have him occupy your pulpit?

Will you do me the favour to reply to this as soon as convenient? that I may complete the arrangements which Mr. Foss has desired me to make for him.

Leicester, Feb. 22. 1853. I am, very respectfully, Yours, (signed) Saml. May Jr.

N.B. I essayed to see you at your room this evening, but found that you were out. And I am obliged to go out of town by the Morning Stage, tomorrow, — or I would have called upon you tomorrow. —

MS.B.1.6 v.4, p.58